

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 54 spanning lines 31-33 with the following amended paragraph:

The sense strand can further comprise a cap on its 3' end. Preferably, the cap is an inverted deoxythymidine (idT) or two consecutive 2'-O-methyl modified bases at the end positions (nucleotides 18 and 19).

Please replace the paragraph on page 69 spanning lines 14-26 with the following amended paragraph:

The siRNA duplexes of certain embodiments of the eleventh embodiment of this invention include a phosphate moiety at the 5'-end of the antisense strand. This phosphate is introduced chemically as the final coupling to the antisense sequence. The required phosphoramidite derivative (*bis*(cyanoethyl)-N,N-diisopropylamino phosphoramidite) is synthesized as follows in brief: phosphorous trichloride is treated one equivalent of N,N-diisopropylamine in anhydrous tetrahydrofuran in the presence of excess triethylamine. Then, two equivalents of 3-hydroxypropionitrile are added and allowed to react completely. Finally, the product is purified by chromatography. Post-purification packaging of the phosphoramidite is carried out using the procedures described previously for the standard nucleoside phosphoramidites. Similarly, the incorporation of the phosphoramidite at the 5'-end of the antisense strand is accomplished by applying the same four-step cycle described previously for the standard nucleoside phosphoramidites.

Please replace the paragraph on page 93, spanning lines 6-13, with the following amended paragraph:

In other embodiments of the present invention, any of the compositions can comprise a conjugate. The conjugate can be selected from the group consisting of amino acids, peptides, polypeptides, proteins, sugars, carbohydrates, lipids, polymers, nucleotides, polynucleotides, and combinations thereof. The conjugate can be cholesterol or PEG. The conjugate can further comprise a label, such as, for example, a fluorescent label. The fluorescent label can be selected from the group consisting of [[of]] TAMRA, BODIPY, Cy3, Cy5, fluorescein, and Dabsyl. Alternatively, the fluorescent label can be any fluorescent label known in the art.

Please replace Table 4, beginning on page 105 after line 8 and continuing to page 107, with the following amended Table 4:

Table 4: Constructs for 2'-Deoxy Modifications/fLUC		
Identifier	Sequence	SEQ. ID NO.
fLUC5-AS 3D19	uuuaugagggaucucucdudgdadt dt	27
fLUC5-AS 3D16	uuuaugagggaucucucdudgdadt dt	28
fLUC5-AS 3D13	uuuaugagggaucdudcdugadt dt	29
fLUC5-AS 3D10	uuuaugaggdadudcucucugadt dt	30
fLUC5-AS 3D7	uuuaugdgdgdgaucucucugadt dt	31
fLUC5-AS 3D4	uuudadudgagggaucucucugadt dt	32
fLUC5-AS 3D1	dududuaugagggaucucucugadt dt	33
fLUC5-AS 2D19	uuuaugagggaucucucudgdadt dt	34
fLUC5-AS 2D17	uuuaugagggaucucucdudgdadt dt	35
fLUC5-AS 2D15	uuuaugagggaucucdudcugadt dt	36
fLUC5-AS 2D13	uuuaugagggaucdudcucugadt dt	37
fLUC5-AS 2D11	uuuaugaggadudcucucugadt dt	38
fLUC5-AS 2D9	uuuaugagdgdgaucucucugadt dt	39
fLUC5-AS 2D7	uuuaugdgdgggaucucucugadt dt	40
fLUC5-AS 2D5	uuuadudgagggaucucucugadt dt	41
fLUC5-AS 2D3	uududaugagggaucucucugadt dt	42
fLUC5-AS 2D1	duduuaugagggaucucucugadt dt	43
fLUC5-AS 1D19	uuuaugagggaucucucugdadt dt	44
fLUC5-AS 1D18	uuuaugagggaucucucudgadt dt	45
fLUC5-AS 1D17	uuuaugagggaucucucdugadt dt	46
fLUC5-AS 1D16	uuuaugagggaucucudcugadt dt	47
fLUC5-AS 1D15	uuuaugagggaucucducugadt dt [[2]]	48
fLUC5-AS 1D14	uuuaugagggaucudcucugadt dt	[[48]] <u>49</u>
fLUC5-AS 1D13	uuuaugagggaucducucugadt dt	50
fLUC5-AS 1D12	uuuaugagggaudcucucugadt dt	51
fLUC5-AS 1D11	uuuaugagggaducucucugadt dt	52

fLUC5-AS 1D10	uuuaugaggdaucucucugadtdt	53
fLUC5-AS 1D9	uuuaugagdgaucucucugadtdt	54
fLUC5-AS 1D8	uuuaugadggauucucucugadtdt	55
fLUC5-AS 1D7	uuuaugdaggauucucucugadtdt	56
fLUC5-AS 1D6	uuuaudgaggauucucucugadtdt	57
fLUC5-AS 1D5	uuuadugaggauucucucugadtdt	58
fLUC5-AS 1D4	uuudaugaggauucucucugadtdt	59
fLUC5-AS 1D3	uuduaugaggauucucucugadtdt	60
fLUC5-AS 1D2	uduuaugaggauucucucugadtdt	61
fLUC5-AS 1D1	duuuauaggauucucucugadtdt	62
fLUC5-S 3D19	ucagagagauccucaudadadadtdt	63
fLUC5-S 3D16	ucagagagauccucadudadaadtdt	64
fLUC5-S 3D13	ucagagagauccdudcdauaaaadtdt	65
fLUC5-S 3D10	ucagagagadudcdcucaaaaadtdt	66
fLUC5-S 3D7	ucagagdgdgauccucauaaaadtdt	67
fLUC5-S 3D4	ucadgdadgagauccucauaaaadtdt	68
fLUC5-S 3D1	dudcdagagagauccucauaaaadtdt	69
fLUC5-S 2D19	ucagagagauccucauadadadtdt	70
fLUC5-S 2D17	ucagagagauccucaudadaadtdt	71
fLUC5-S 2D15	ucagagagauccucdaduaaaadtdt	72
fLUC5-S 2D13	ucagagagauccdudcauaaaadtdt	73
fLUC5-S 2D11	ucagagagaudcdcucauaaaadtdt	74
fLUC5-S 2D9	ucagagagdauccucauaaaadtdt	75
fLUC5-S 2D7	ucagagdgdgauccucauaaaadtdt	76
fLUC5-S 2D5	ucagdgdgagauccucauaaaadtdt	77
fLUC5-S 2D3	ucdadgagagauccucauaaaadtdt	78
fLUC5-S 2D1	dudcagagagauccucauaaaadtdt	79
fLUC5-S 1D19	ucagagagauccucauaadadtdt	80
fLUC5-S 1D18	ucagagagauccucauadaadtdt	81
fLUC5-S 1D17	ucagagagauccucaudaaadtdt	82
fLUC5-S 1D16	ucagagagauccucaduuaadtdt	83

fLUC5-S 1D15	ucagagagauccucdauaaaadttdt	84
fLUC5-S 1D14	ucagagagauccudcauaaaadttdt	85
fLUC5-S 1D13	ucagagagauccducauaaaadttdt	86
fLUC5-S 1D12	ucagagagauccdcuauaaaadttdt	87
fLUC5-S 1D11	ucagagagaudccucauaaaadttdt	88
fLUC5-S 1D10	ucagagagaduuccucauaaaadttdt	89
fLUC5-S 1D9	ucagagagdauccucauaaaadttdt	90
fLUC5-S 1D8	ucagagadgauccucauaaaadttdt	91
fLUC5-S 1D7	ucagagdagauccucauaaaadttdt	92
fLUC5-S 1D6	ucagadgagauccucauaaaadttdt	93
fLUC5-S 1D5	ucagdagagauccucauaaaadttdt	94
fLUC5-S 1D4	ucadgagagauccucauaaaadttdt	95
fLUC5-S 1D3	ucdagagagauccucauaaaadttdt	96
fLUC5-S 1D2	udcagagagauccucauaaaadttdt	97
fLUC5-S 1D1	ducagagagauccucauaaaadttdt	98
A "d" indicates that the nucleotide following the "d" is deoxy at the 2' position.		